

# **Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)**

## **Steering Committee Meeting**

Friday, January 26, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Draft Meeting Notes

### **Action Items**

- Tim Quinn and Ann Hayden will work with the Membership Subgroup to implement changes to the draft membership criteria, consider requests to be added to the Steering Committee and provide a report back to the Steering Committee.
- Ron Ott will distribute or post the “Diversion Effects on Fish” study for review.
- NGOs will send their goals to Ms. Scarborough.
- A Conservation Strategy workgroup, chaired by Walt Wadlow and Anthony Saracino, should convene before the next Steering Committee meeting to discuss conservation goals.

### **Key Agreements/Decisions**

- All supported the concept of species recovery, but it remains to be seen if it will be possible for the BDCP to achieve recovery.
- All agreed that assigning metrics to the BDCP’s goal statements will be a valuable tracking mechanism; Santa Clara Valley Water District’s experience assigning metrics to their HCP goals will be a valuable guide.
- All agreed that the Fish Agencies’ goals are a good place to start, as larger goals to be further refined.
- There was general agreement that the BDCP should explore the possibility of an alternate conveyance, but that this should not pre-empt current Delta vision process.
- There was general agreement that the Steering Committee should consider a range of alternatives, even if they are inconsistent with planning goals.

### **Introductions/Updates**

- See attached list for meeting attendees.
- The SAIC contract should be signed soon, which will allow them to start moving forward with implementing the workplan.
- Meeting notes from the past several meetings will be distributed soon. These notes will be a hybrid of detailed meeting minutes and key decisions.
- CALFED has started reviewing the first seven years of its 30 year implementation plan, including an analysis of whether through-Delta conveyance is working. The draft report is expected in September 2007.
- DFG briefed the Steering Committee on the discovery of Quagga Mussels in Lake Mead in January. These mussels are highly invasive and have the potential to cause large environmental and economic impacts. They can be transported by water conveyance and by trailered boats. California has launched a unified response under its incident command system, including border inspection stations near Lake Mead and the California/Nevada border in Truckee, dive survey teams, and public information aimed at the boating community.

## Membership Committee Report

The Steering Committee discussed the Membership Subgroup's criteria for admitting new members to the Steering Committee. All agreed to make the following additions to these criteria:

- Applicants would be required to accept all past Steering Committee decisions upon acceptance;
- Applicants should be given the opportunity to meet with Steering Committee members to learn more about the application process;
- Applicants should be given the ability to appeal to the Membership Subgroup and/or the Steering Committee if their application is denied;
- Modify Item #2 to refer to the planning goals.

*Action Item:* Tim Quinn and Ann Hayden will work with the Membership Subgroup to implement these changes to the draft criteria, consider any requests to add members to the Steering Committee, and provide a report back to the Steering Committee.

## Conservation Strategy

SAIC facilitated the first of a series of discussions aimed to identify the Steering Committee's conservation and potential strategies for the BDCP, with the intent of setting clear, accomplishable expectations for the plan. These meetings will continue through March, leading to a guidance report that will serve as the Steering Committee's direction to SAIC about the potential conservation strategies. SAIC expects to propose a range of possible BDCP strategies, then brainstorm and possibly suggest alternate approaches that may not have been considered yet. It was stressed that this effort is exploratory at this point, and that no final decisions will be made on the BDCP's final approach until all agreed-upon options are discussed. .

As part of this discussion, the Steering Committee reviewed the Fish Agencies' draft goals handout, which were based on the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program's Strategic Plan (<http://calwater.ca.gov/programs/ecosystemrestoration/ecosystemvol3restorationplan.shtml>; page 23). The intent of this handout was to frame the Fish Agencies' issues and demonstrate what their collective goals have been in the past. USFWS also encouraged a more rigorous approach to looking at multiple alternatives, similar to the 1998 study "Diversion Effects on Fish". This study looked at four alternatives, including 1) Current conveyance 2) SDIP; 3) an isolated conveyance facility; and 4) the "preferred program" which included SDIP type improvements plus a screened diversion at Hood.

The majority of this discussion centered on covered activities, covered species, planning area, environmental baseline, expectations for recovery, expectations for mitigation, and project funding.

### *Decisions/Agreements:*

- All supported the concept of species restoration, but it remains to be seen if it will be possible for the BDCP to achieve full restoration.
- All agreed that assigning metrics to the BDCP's goal statements will be a valuable tracking mechanism; Santa Clara Valley Water District's experience assigning metrics to certain BDCP goals will be a valuable guide.

- All agreed that the Fish Agencies' goals are a good place to start, as larger goals to be further refined.
- There was general agreement that one BDCP goal should explore the possibility of alternate conveyance, but that this should not pre-empt current Delta vision process.
- There was general agreement that the Steering Committee should consider various alternatives, even if they are inconsistent with planning goals.

*Action Items:*

- Ron Ott will distribute or post the "Diversion Effects on Fish" study as background information.
- NGOs will send their goals to Ms. Scarborough.

### **Workgroup Status Report**

- A new Conservation Strategy Subgroup was established, co-chaired by Walt Wadlow and Anthony Saracino.
- The Science Workgroup will meet soon.
- The Membership Workgroup will modify the membership criteria as discussed in today's meeting.
- The Workplan & Budget Workgroup will meet as necessary.

### **Public Comment**

- Kenny Watkins from the California Farm Bureau supported the Steering Committee's changes to the membership criteria and announced his agency's submittal of a formal letter of interest to Ms. Scarborough.
- Matt Vandersluis from PCL requested that the Steering Committee consider the human impacts to the health of the Delta and to keep the focus of conservation goals on larger issues such as how much water the Delta needs.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting scheduled for February 9 has been cancelled. The next meeting will occur on February 23, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### **Handouts**

- Final BDCP Workplan
- Draft Fishery Agency Goals and Objectives for the BDCP
- Quagga Mussel Incident PowerPoint